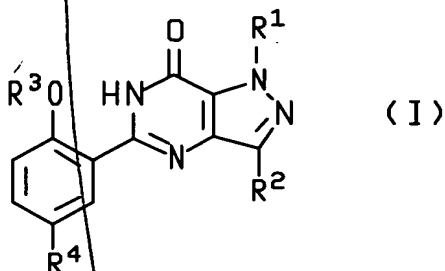


What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating sexual dysfunction in an animal with an injured spinal cord, comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



wherein:

R¹ is H; C₁-C₃ alkyl; C₁-C₃ perfluoroalkyl; or C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl;

R² is H; C₁-C₆ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl; C₁-C₃ perfluoroalkyl; or C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl;

R³ is C₁-C₆ alkyl optionally substituted with C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl; C₁-C₆ perfluoroalkyl; C₃-C₅ cycloalkyl; C₃-C₆ alkenyl; or C₃-C₆ alkynyl;

R⁴ is C₁-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with OH, NR⁵R⁶, CN, CONR⁵R⁶ or CO₂R⁷; C₂-C₄ alkenyl optionally substituted with CN, CONR⁵R⁶ or CO₂R⁷; C₂-C₄ alkanoyl optionally substituted with NR⁵R⁶; (hydroxy)C₂-C₄ alkyl optionally substituted with NR⁵R⁶; (C₂-C₃ alkoxy)C₁-C₂ alkyl optionally substituted with OH or NR⁵R⁶; CONR⁵R⁶; CO₂R⁷; halo; NR⁵R⁶; NHSO₂NR⁵R⁶; NHSO₂R⁸; SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰; or phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, thienyl or triazolyl any of which is optionally substituted with methyl;

R⁵ and R⁶ are each independently H or C₁-C₄ alkyl, or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino, 4-N(R¹¹)-

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piperazinyl or imidazolyl group wherein said group is optionally substituted with methyl or OH;

R^7 is H or C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

R^8 is C_1 - C_3 alkyl optionally substituted with NR^5R^6 ;

5 R^9 and R^{10} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino or 4- $N(R^{12})$ -piperazinyl group wherein said group is optionally substituted with C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_3 alkoxy, $NR^{13}R^{14}$ or $CONR^{13}R^{14}$;

R^{11} is H; C_1 - C_3 alkyl optionally substituted with phenyl; (hydroxy) C_2 - C_3 alkyl; or C_1 - C_4 alkanoyl;

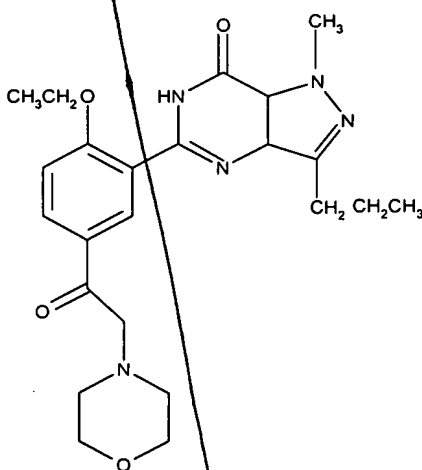
10 R^{12} is H; C_1 - C_6 alkyl; (C_1 - C_3 alkoxy) C_2 - C_6 alkyl; (hydroxy) C_2 - C_6 alkyl; ($R^{13}R^{14}N$) C_2 - C_6 alkyl; ($R^{13}R^{14}NOC$) C_1 - C_6 alkyl; $CONR^{13}R^{14}$; $CSNR^{13}R^{14}$; or $C(NH)NR^{13}R^{14}$; and

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently H; C_1 - C_4 alkyl; (C_1 - C_3 alkoxy) C_2 - C_4 alkyl; or (hydroxy) C_2 - C_4 alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

15 or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from sildenafil, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and the compound having the structure:



and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

25 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said compound is sildenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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4. A method as defined in claim 3, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable salt is the citrate.

5. ~~5.~~ A method of treating sexual dysfunction in an animal with an injured spinal cord, comprising administering to an animal in need of such treatment an effective amount of sildenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition containing either entity.

10 6. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable salt is the citrate.

7. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said animal is male and exhibits essentially no residual erectile function.

15 8. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said animal is male and exhibits essentially no residual erectile function.

9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said animal is human.

20 10. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said animal is human.

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